

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, and 4-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended herein. This Response, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated August 6, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

**Preliminary Matters**

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 4 was allowable.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102/103**

Claim 13

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by European Patent Application 0 980 770 A2 (henceforth “EP 770”). Alternatively, Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 770. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, claim 4 has been indicated as allowable. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 4. Specifically, claim 13 now recites, *inter alia*:

...wherein the ratio of the sum of the transversal strengths of the carcass, the transversal reinforcement layer, the circumferential layer and the belt including their coating rubbers to the sum of the circumferential strengths of them is 0.55 or more at the tire's equatorial plane.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is now patentable over the applied references and respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim now be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, and 6-9

Claims 1, 2, and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP 770 as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Helfer et al. (U.S. 5,616,197; henceforth “Helfer”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, claim 4 has been indicated as allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 4. Specifically, claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*:

...wherein the ratio of the sum of the transversal strengths of the carcass, the transversal reinforcement layer, the circumferential layer and the belt including their coating rubbers to the sum of the circumferential strengths of them is 0.55 or more at the tire's equatorial plane.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now patentable over the applied references and respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim now be withdrawn. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims dependant upon claim 1 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims also be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**

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